

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The integrity of state and local officials' political campaigns is of critical importance to ensuring free and fair elections in the state.

(b) Officeholders, candidates, and those assisting with campaigns have become targets of efforts to breach the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic devices with sensitive campaign information.

(c) On December 13, 2018, the Federal Election Commission adopted Advisory Opinion 2018-15, which concluded that it is permissible under the Federal Election Campaign Act (52 U.S.C. Sec. 30101 et seq.) for federal officeholders to use campaign funds to pay for cybersecurity protection for personal devices and accounts.

(d) State and local officials in California are similarly situated to federal officeholders as high-value targets for hacking and other cyberattacks.

(e) Clarity in California law regarding the propriety of using campaign funds for cybersecurity is necessary to ensure officeholders and candidates take appropriate action to secure themselves and their campaigns.

SEC. 2. Section 89517.6 is added to the Government Code, to read:

89517.6. Notwithstanding Section 89517, campaign funds may be used to pay or reimburse the state for the costs of installing and monitoring hardware, software, or services related to the cybersecurity of electronic devices of a candidate, elected officer, or campaign worker. The candidate or elected officer shall report any expenditure of campaign funds made pursuant to this section to the commission in the candidate's or elected officer's campaign statements filed pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 84200) of Chapter 4 of this title.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that this bill furthers the purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974 within the meaning of subdivision (a) of Section 81012 of the Government Code.

